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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/271,503	03/18/1999	KENICHI MORITA	325772008700	4229

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EXAMINER

MITCHELL, MONICA J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/271,503

Applicant(s)

MORITA ET AL.

Examiner

Monica J. Mitchell

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 March 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show reference element 209 as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: Figure 1: 314c,m, y, k; 101; 305; Figure 5: LB, LC, LD, LE; Figure 6: 484 and 330. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: In line 2 of claim 1, line 11 of claim 2, line 12 of claim 9, line 5 of claim 12, and line 9 of claim 13, the word, "with", should be added between "dealing" and "image". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claim 5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

The Examiner assumes claim 5 to mean "The image processor according to claim 2, wherein said bus changer, which is connected to said image input block, changes the bus connection ..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tada (U.S. Patent Number 5,138,702).

Regarding claim 1, Tada discloses an imaging processor comprising: a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other (column 1, lines 12-14) and dealing image data (column 1, lines 14-17); an interface (Figure 1, reference element 16) connected to a network (column 4, lines 41-46); and a bus changer (Figure 2, reference element 27a-d) which changes bus connection among said plurality of function blocks and said interface (column 5, lines 24-28).

Regarding claim 2, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said plurality of function blocks comprise an image input block (Figure 1, reference elements 31 and 32) which receives image data (column 4, lines 51-53), an image processing block (Figure 1, reference element 11) which deals image data (column 4, lines 29-34), and an image output block (Figure 1, reference elements 33 and 34) which outputs the image data (column 4, lines 53-57).

Regarding claim 3, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said image input block receives image data read with an image sensor (column 4, lines 51-53).

Regarding claim 4, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said image output block prints an image on a registering medium (column 4, lines 53-57).

Regarding claim 5, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said bus changer image input block changes the bus connection (column 5, lines 30-33) such that image data from said network is received through said interface (column 4, lines 41-46) and sends image data to said network through said image output block (column 5, lines 24-28) or said interface (column 4, lines 41-46).

Regarding claim 6, Tada discloses the image processor wherein one of said function blocks comprises a memory (Figure 1, reference element 3) which stores an application program (column 4, lines 10-17) and a controller (Figure 1, reference element 1) which processes the image data according to the application program (column 4, lines 18-23).

Regarding claim 7, Tada inherently discloses the image processor wherein said memory has a capacity which stores another application program further (as evidenced

by the fact that he teaches in column 4, lines 10-13, that "main memory for storing programs and the like", meaning more than one program).

Regarding claim 8, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said memory (Figure 2, reference element 24) comprises a management table (read as "communication table") which manages the application programs stored therein (column 5, lines 42-45. Said memory is accessed by and contains commands from said controller as read in column 5, lines 17-23).

Regarding claim 9, Tada discloses an imaging processor comprising: a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other (column 1, lines 12-14) and dealing image data (column 1, lines 14-17); an interface (Figure 1, reference element 16) connected to a network (column 4, lines 41-46); and a bus changer (Figure 2, reference element 27a-d) which changes bus connection among said plurality of function blocks and said interface (column 5, lines 24-28), and a controller (Figure 2, reference element 23) which discriminates data received from said network (Column 5, lines 1-23) and controls data transmission to one of the function blocks to be operated (column 5, lines 24-50).

Regarding claim 10, Tada discloses the image processor further comprising a power supply controller (Figure 2, reference element 23) which supplies electric power to function blocks to be operated in said plurality of function blocks (column 6, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 11, Tada inherently discloses the image processor wherein said power supply controller stops power supply to said function blocks after processing in said function blocks is completed (column 6, lines 1-5. Examiner states it is inherently taught that if the power supply controller supplies electric power to the functions blocks,

then the power supply controller can also stop the electric power supply to the function blocks).

Regarding claim 12, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said plurality of function blocks comprise an image input block (Figure 1, reference elements 31 and 32) which receives image data (column 4, lines 51-53), an image processing block (Figure 1, reference element 11) which deals image data (column 4, lines 29-34), and an image output block (Figure 1, reference elements 33 and 34) which outputs the image data (column 4, lines 53-57).

Regarding claim 13, Tada discloses an imaging processor comprising: a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other (column 1, lines 12-14) and dealing image data (column 1, lines 14-17); an interface (Figure 1, reference element 16) connected to a network (column 4, lines 41-46); and a bus changer (Figure 2, reference element 27a-d) which changes bus connection among said plurality of function blocks and said interface (column 5, lines 24-28), a memory (Figure 2, reference element 24) having a function management table (read as "communication table") to manage executable functions (column 5, lines 42-45), and a controller (Figure 1, reference element 1) which requests an external apparatus (Figure 1, reference element 21) connected through said interface (Figure 1, reference element 16) and said network (Figure 1, reference element 17) to operate a function (column 5, lines 25-50) when the function is not managed in the function management table in said memory (column 5, lines 51-65).

Regarding claim 14, Tada discloses the image processor wherein said memory (Figure 2, reference element 24) comprises a management table (read as

"communication table") which manages the application programs stored therein (column 5, lines 42-45. Said memory is accessed by and contains commands from said controller as read in column 5, lines 17-23).

Regarding claim 15, Tada inherently discloses the image processor wherein said memory has a capacity which stores another application program further (as evidenced by the fact that he teaches in column 4, lines 10-13, that "main memory for storing programs and the like", meaning more than one program).

Regarding claim 16, Tada discloses a method of controlling image processing in an image processor including a plurality of function blocks, comprising following steps of: receiving a request to perform a function (column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 27); deciding whether the function is executable in said image processor (column 6, lines 27-37); and changing bus connection between a necessary function block (Figure 2, reference element 27a-d) and said interface (Figure 1, reference element 16) to operate an external apparatus (Figure 1, reference element 21) connected through an interface connectable to said network (column 4, lines 41-46) when the function is decided not executable in said image processor (column 5, lines 1-50).

Regarding 17, Tada discloses the method wherein the decision is performed with reference to the management table (read as "communication table") provided to manage executable function stored in a memory (column 7, lines 12-27).

Regarding 18, Tada discloses the method further comprising the step of sending a signal to request execution of the function to the external image processor (column 7, lines 65-68).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Tanaka et al (U.S. Patent Number 4,658,299) discloses an image processing system transmitting image information in the form of electrical signals among plural stations for processing.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monica J. Mitchell whose telephone number is 703-306-3430. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-3455 for regular communications and 703-746-3455 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.

mjm
August 26, 2002


EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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